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BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT
Herefordshire

Joint
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Public Health Inspector
for the year 1963





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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1963)

✕ R.H. MESS (Chairman of the Council)	Ullingswick
✕ J.L. POWELL (Vice-Chairman of the Council)	..		Edwyn Ralph
✕ J.T. ARNETT	..	..	Stoke Lacy
✕ Mrs. E.B. BABER	..	..	Linton
✕ H.A. BAYLISS	..	..	Little Cowarne
✕ Major M.A. BELLVILLE (Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)			Tedstone Delamere
T.G. BEMAND	..	..	Grendon Bishop
✕ Miss D.A. BOUCHER, M.B.E.	..	..	Cradley
✕ W.M. BRUNT	..	..	Thornbury with Hampton Charles
L.W. BOWCOTT	..	..	Much Cowarne
✕ F. CALE	..	..	Cradley
J. CONGDON	..	..	Cradley
H.G. EDWARDS	..	..	Wolferlow
F.C.L. ESSENHIGH	..	..	Brockhampton
Rev. C. GREEN	..	..	Felton
✕ O.H.M. HERFORD	..	..	Bredenbury
✕ H.C.C. HODGES	..	..	Avenbury
✕ J.F. HYDE	..	..	Ocle Pychard
A.L. JAMES	..	..	Whitbourne
S. LEIGHTON	..	..	Collington
J.C. PAGE	..	..	Edvin Loach, Saltmarsh and Tedstone Wafre
✕ W.D. PORTER	..	..	Acton Beauchamp
T.L. RICHARDS	..	..	Stanford Bishop
M.J. SHERRATT	..	..	Bishops Frome
✕ Miss M. SHEPHERD	..	..	Whitbourne
L.P. SHUKER	..	..	Wacton
✕ O.J.E. SKYRM	..	..	Upper Sapey
✕ S.S. SPROSTON	..	..	Norton
✕ D.J. THOMAS	..	..	Pencombe with Grendon Warren
✕ J.H. WALLER	..	..	Winslow
✕ Rev. W.G. WALTON (Vice-Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)			Bishops Frome
✕ Members of the Housing and Health Committee			

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BROMYARD.

(Telephone: Bromyard 3197)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: C.A. PREECE

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector: Mrs. R.M.M. WILLIAMS

Clerk to the Council: J.B. SENIOR, Solicitor.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Rural
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1963, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

In the statistical section the figures do not show any great change from previous years, except for the ~~great~~ increase in the number of cases of measles.

Interest is now going to concentrate immediately on the building of centrally heated flats for old people and others, and over the next few years on the provision of sewerage systems to a number of villages in the district following the introduction of the Water Board's main supplies.

I would like to thank Mr. Worsdall for completing much of this report, and for his help and co-operation in the past year.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	61,114
Estimated mid-year home population	6,830
Average number of persons per acre	0.11
Number of inhabited houses	2,245
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	0.04
Average number of persons per house	3.01
Rateable Value	£115,032
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£431

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	48	49	97
Illegitimate	5	1	6
	<hr/> 53	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 103

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.15	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	15.1	16.7	16.7	17.7	13.5
" " (Adjusted)	17.4	18.7	18.7	19.8	15.1
England and Wales	18.2	18.0	17.4	17.1	16.5

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Bromyard R.D. ..	5.8
England and Wales ..	figure not yet available

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> -	<hr/> 1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Bromyard R.D. ..	9.6	17.2	8.8	14.2	20.2
England and Wales ..	17.3	18.1	19.1	19.8	21.0

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	.. 19.4
England and Wales	.. *

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	.. 19.4
England and Wales	.. *

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	.. 28.8
England and Wales	.. *

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Bromyard R.D.	(Total	19.4	8.8	26.6	Nil	52.0
	(Legitimate	20.6	9.3	27.3	Nil	52.6
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	(Total	20.9	21.7	21.6	21.9	22.2
	(Legitimate	*	21.3	21.2	21.5	21.9
	(Illegitimate	*	27.2	25.3	26.4	27.4

* figures not yet available

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D. .. Nil
 England and Wales .. *

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total		
Total number of deaths from all causes:	51	50	101		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
Comparability factor: 0.74	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Bromyard R.D. (Crude) ..	14.8	13.7	15.8	11.3	11.9
" " (Adjusted) ..	10.9	10.1	11.4	8.8	10.2
England and Wales ..	12.2	11.9	12.0	11.5	11.6

	Males	Females	Total		
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	4	14	18		
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Bromyard R.D. ..	2.63	1.91	3.39	1.70	1.84
England and Wales ..	*	2.18	2.15	2.16	2.14

Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total		
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	25	25	50		
Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Bromyard R.D. ..	7.32	7.34	8.41	5.10	5.39
England and Wales ..	*	6.14	6.10	6.00	5.88

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	9	3	12

* figures not yet available

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated
mid-year home population:

	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Bromyard R.D.	.. 1.75	1.47	1.33	1.70	2.13
England and Wales	.. *	1.57	1.60	1.26	1.53

* figure not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages))

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Measles	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	-	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	12	18
Coronary disease, angina	12	4	16
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2
Other heart disease	4	4	8
Other circulatory disease	3	3	6
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Bronchitis	5	-	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	4	8
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	2	1	3
Homicide and operations of war	1	-	1
TOTAL:	51	50	101

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BROMFORD DURING THE YEAR 1963

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	3	4	2	2	2	-	3	-	16
Measles	7	4	35	53	22	61	22	6	3	-	2	15	230
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Encephalitis:													
Post-infectious	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HERFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1963

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	-	-	5	-	6	6	4	2	2	1	3	-	29
Measles	18	17	122	94	27	74	72	49	15	2	2	15	507
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	3	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	12
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
Acute Encephalitis:													
Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Pneumonia	2	2	3	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	1	13
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	7
Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	7
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	2	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	9
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Disease	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Whooping Cough	16	1	11	10	1
Measles	230	19	57	17	99
Scarlet Fever	1	-	1	4	8
Erysipelas	1	2	-	-	2
Acute Encephalitis:					
Post-Infectious	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2
Dysentery	1	1	2	5	3
Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	1	-	-	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	2	1	-	1	1
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	-	1	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE

Whooping Cough	29	13	126	70	38
Measles	507	337	583	189	388
Scarlet Fever	12	9	11	23	46
Erysipelas	3	5	3	4	4
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	2	2	1	3	-
Post-Infectious	1	2	-	1	-
Acute Pneumonia	13	15	18	18	33
Dysentery	7	1	62	123	3
Food Poisoning	7	5	11	39	3
Paratyphoid Fever	2	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	-	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	9	7	9	7	13
Non-Pulmonary	1	2	2	3	2
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	-	1	-	-	-

COMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	North Here- fordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	0.79	0.74
Measles	13.92	12.76
Scarlet Fever	0.33	0.37
Erysipelas	0.08	0.03
Acute Encephalitis:		
Infective	0.05	0.003
Post-Infectious	0.03	0.004
Acute Pneumonia	0.35	0.30
Dysentery	0.19	0.67
Food Poisoning	0.19	0.12
Paratyphoid Fever	0.05	0.007
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.25	0.35
Non-Pulmonary	0.03	0.05
* Puerperal Pyrexia	1.65	7.44

* per 1,000 total live and still births.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1962	15	20	8	9
New cases notified	-	2	1	-
Recovered	1	1	-	-
Moved from district	2	-	4	3
Number on Register at 31st December, 1963	12	21	5	6

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1959	-	56	1	3
1960	3	58	1	2
1961	-	53	1	4
1962	2	52	-	3
1963	3	44	-	2

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORTWATER SUPPLIES

1963 was a year for marking time, in that work on the River Teme scheme which is to serve the whole area and parts of four adjoining districts, continued at a good pace once the wintry conditions had abated. Most of the work on Stage I should be completed by the end of 1964 and mains water, available for the first time, to Cradley, Pencombe, Little Cowarne, Norton, Whitbourne, Linton, Stanford Bishop and Acton Beauchamp.

The Upper Sapey extension from Worcestershire was completed and service connections provided in the parishes of Upper Sapey, Wolferlow, and part of Tedstone Wafre. When the parishes already served - Bishops Frome, Bredenbury, and part of Edwyn Ralph - are added, one is able to see progress at long last.

Towards the end of 1963 it became evident that the Herefordshire Water Board intended to include the second stage of the Teme scheme in their estimates for 1964/65/66. The necessary intake works and main storage(s) having been provided within Stage I, it follows that Stage II is substantially concerned with main laying. Needless to say, the Council is well satisfied with the Water Board's programme; this applies also to those living along the main routes, but already applications are coming in for extensions from those less fortunately placed.

Once more, but with greater hope, the Ministry have to be told the existing water situation is not satisfactory either in quantity or quality, except for a relatively few private and public schemes, all of limited coverage.

Water Sampling

45 samples of water were collected for examination, with these results:

(i) <u>Public Supplies</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bacteriological	18	2	20
Chemical	-	-	-
(ii) <u>Private Supplies</u>			
Bacteriological	16	8	24
Chemical	1	-	1

It should be noted that the two unsatisfactory samples of public water were from newly laid mains which were subsequently re-flushed and produced better results.

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued)Dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains direct to houses

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Population (approx)</u>
Bishops Frome	45	—	140
Edwyn Ralph	22	—	68
Bredenbury	48	—	145
Cradley - Heathfields	—	2	4
Cradley - Buryfiedls	29	—	90
Evesbatch	4	—	18
Fromes Hill	23	—	72
Ocle Pychard	19	—	53
Pencombe	—	8	28
Sparrington	8	—	29
Stanford Bishop	7	—	32
Stoke Lacy	30	—	92
Tedstone Delamere	7	—	28
Ullingswick	4	—	14
Upper Sapey	6	7	43
Whitbourne	—	12	41
Wolferlow	2	—	9
	254	29	906

Dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains by means of standpipes

<u>No. of dwellinghouses served (approx)</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Population (approx)</u>
12	8	4	38

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths in the district

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Apart from a certain quickening of interest in the subject, the only happening of note concerned the Cradley scheme which was the subject of a Ministry enquiry during 1963. Incidentally, it would be interesting to know how many RDCs have reached this stage with a sewerage scheme before mains water has arrived.

Administrative processes seem to consume more and more time as years go by; Bishops Frome was delayed because of disagreement on land compensation between the owners and the District Valuer. Bredenbury disposal site presented difficulties involving both landowners and the River Board. Pencombe and Linton spent the year being "planned". However, the "footings" have been laid and the real work should begin in 1965.

The relatively small disposal works at Council Estates continued to meet their commitments, although several obviously produce an effluent not in keeping with modern standards. This situation needs to be watched.

HOUSING

1963 was a year of progress in all sections of housing, perhaps the most encouraging concerned new dwellings by private development which produced a completion rate more than three times the average annual rate of the previous ten years. Twentythree new houses per annum is not adequate to replace normal wastage and simultaneously achieve a steady growth, but the rather startling increase in comparison with previous years is encouraging, especially when bearing in mind that the comprehensive water scheme cannot be fully effective until early 1965.

The Council have never lost faith in private enterprise building and have made valiant efforts to install water and sewerage schemes in the areas likely to be attractive for development. The Herefordshire Water Board pushed through our plans with admirable determination, while the Planning Authority, as part of their review of the County Development Plan, appeared willing to support applications for villages where "in-filling" land is available and mains services in the offing. Unfortunately, too many applications for planning were entirely speculative, but certainly some were praiseworthy efforts on the part of local builders. In rural areas these efforts are particularly welcome.

Private owners produced rather fewer discretionary grant schemes this year and a few more standard grant applications. Nevertheless, the details printed elsewhere in this report give a most satisfactory overall picture; the general difficulty in getting builders to execute work quickly and in securing competitive tenders was still evident. It is possible that standard grant applications will increase in numbers as mains water becomes available.

Management of Council houses underwent a review with the establishment of a separate register of welfare cases, and one member of the Council together with the Medical Officer of Health undertook the task of visiting each applicant before referring them to the County Welfare Officer. Cases acceptable to that authority are then eligible for an old persons' dwelling in the welfare schemes at Ocle Pychard and Kirkham Garden.

The Council was able to reach agreement for the purchase of their seventh lower category cottage for special tenants; in this instance the cottage is of very sound quality lacking only modern conveniences. It seems possible that a further dwelling and a disused school will come under Council ownership in 1964.

The building of Local Authority houses continued to demand attention in 1963; the four Old Persons' bungalows at Ocle Pychard were completed, and the majority of the twenty dwellings at Westbury, Stoke Lacy, were finished. Ocle Pychard is the first stage of a "Welfare" scheme, while Stoke Lacy was the Council's first effort at a really comprehensive scheme. Three and two bedroom houses were provided together with two bedroom bungalows and one bedroom old people's bungalows.

HOUSING (Continued)

When allocating dwellings in the Westbury Estate, the Council undertook, as a matter of deliberate policy, to give preference to newly married couples for two bedroom dwellings. Hitherto emphasis had been placed on families and old persons, but it was believed that a determined effort should be launched to encourage the younger generation to stay within the villages. Recent figures underlined the shrinking rural population; the causes are numerous, but inadequate housing, poor transport, and low convenience standard, all contributed.

Towards the year's end tenders for the Kirkham Garden, Bromyard, scheme came in. This will be the most expensive contract so far undertaken by the Council and is the first comprehensive old people's scheme. There are to be thirtytwo old persons' flats, twelve flats for general letting, a club room and warden's flat; the whole scheme has been evolved with the co-operation of the County Welfare and Planning authorities.

Discretionary Improvement Grants

	<u>1963 only</u>	<u>Total to Dec.</u> <u>1963</u>
No. of houses in respect of which full applications were made	18	248
No. of houses in respect of which grants were offered	16	235
No. of houses in respect of which applications were refused or withdrawn	-	4
No. of houses in respect of which improvements were completed	19	198
Total value of works approved for grant	£17,316. 8. 2d.	£177,874. 6. 7d.
Total grant offered in respect of above works	£5,812.15. 0d.	£72,344. 2. 1d.

Standard Grants

No. of houses in respect of which applications were made	19	60
No. of dwellings improved	2013	3447
No. of applications withdrawn or rejected	6	6
No. of applications approved	17	52
Value of grant paid	£1,633. 6.10d.	£5,825.17. 8d.

HOUSING (Continued)Unfit Houses

No. of houses subject to Time and Place Notices	8
No of houses subject to Demolition Orders	6
No. of houses subject to Closing Orders	2
No. of houses on which Undertakings were accepted ..	3
No. of houses on which Undertakings to repair were accepted ..	-

New Houses

No. of Local Authority dwellings completed (16 Stoke Lacy, 4 Ocle Pychard)	20
No. of private dwellings completed	23
No. of Local Authority dwellings in course of erection at December 1963	8
No. of private dwellings in course of erection at December 1963	9

Category V positions

The position regarding Category V houses is now:

No. of houses in Cat. V at end of 1962 ..	149
Deleted from all records ..	3
Placed in higher category ..	<u>1</u>
	4
Total of Category V houses to be dealt with at the end of 1963	<u>145</u>

REFUSE COLLECTION

The figures since 1953 are:

	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Properties</u>	<u>Loads</u>
1953	5560	16675	172
1954	6421	17371	182
1955	6487	18082	185
1956	7228	19591	202½
1957	7432½	19989	198
1958	7508	22758	243½
1959	7957	23698	253½
1960	8036	23780	253
1961	8820	25361	306½
1962	8990	25904	295
1963	9480	27240	342

REFUSE COLLECTION (Continued)

While the collection of house refuse continued with remarkably little complaint, the problem of scavenging on the Downs was always evident during fine week-ends; one is tempted to say that a poor summer is a blessing in disguise.

Refuse disposal is always a subject for long term viewing; the tip at Cradley is nearing the end of its useful life and the Council were fortunate in finding excellent facilities at Tedstone and Bromyard Downs.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

(Mr. R. Tristram has prepared this report for me)

A pest destruction service is run in the district in conjunction with Hereford, Ledbury and Ross & Whitchurch Rural District Councils. The number of contracts in the year ending December 1963 for Bromyard R.D.C. equalled 68, to a total value exceeding £550, and approximately five hundred treatments were carried out on these contracts. Apart from contracts, a large number of private houses and Council properties together with refuse tips were treated and surveyed.

The pest destruction service has also assisted in the destroying of wasps' and hornets' nests, although they would like to point out to the public that they are not obliged to carry out this type of work.

The severe weather at the beginning of the year rather restricted travel at, unfortunately, one of the busiest periods of the year; in consequence the Autumn of 1963 has seen an influx of rats, mice, etc., into farms and tips, their numbers being perhaps the heaviest for years. I hope that more farmers will take advantage of the service run by the Council, as their participation in pest control helps us to give treatments effectively and prevents infestation building up in an area.

It is not always easy to please everyone all the time when dealing with the destruction of rats, but I do think that 99% of the people we help are most grateful for the assistance.

HOP-PICKING ACCOMMODATION

A summary of the 1963 position is given below.

Total number of farms	..	..	..	..	..	68
Number of farms housing pickers	..	..	..	..	..	8
Number of farms with local pickers	..	..	..	..	..	60
Approximate number of pickers housed						
in 1963 (excluding travellers, gipsies,						
and small children)	..	..	..	..	..	163
Estimated children	..	..	..	..	..	70
Estimated travellers	..	..	..	..	..	120

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD(a) Food and Drugs Act

Number of food shops	29
Number of public houses	25
Number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	25

(b) Slaughter of animals

Number of licensed slaughterhouses in the district	Nil
Number of licensed slaughtermen	8

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959PremisesNumber on
Register

Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	1
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	6
	<hr/>
Total	7
	<hr/>
Number of Inspections	2
Number of written notices	1
Cases in which defects were found or remedied	1



